

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-21 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this Amendment, various claims have been amended. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, and 11-21 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

The Prior Art Rejections

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,745,110 to Ertemalp in view of U.S. Patent 6,380,953 to Mizuno.

The Prior Art

U.S. Patent 5,745,110 to Ertemalp is directed to a method and apparatus for arranging and displaying task schedule information in a calendar view format. For example, Figure 11, referenced by the Examiner, displays a calendar with task bars of varying size. However, the size of the task bars depends on the start and finish times for these tasks (see column 10, lines 35-52).

U.S. Patent 6,380,953 to Mizuno is directed to a method of display scrolling along a time base and an apparatus for performing the method. For example, Mizuno displays a calendar which adjusts row spacing based on an amount of jobs allocated to a given row (see Figure 5). However, this adjustment is based on a quantity outside of the units themselves (i.e., the number of jobs selected for that row), and is not based on scheduled quantities inside the units.

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over the Prior Art

Claim 1

Referring, for example, to claim 1, in accordance with the present claimed invention, a layout control device forms a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining a layout. The layout is formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units. A display control device controls display of the schedule table according to the layout. The layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting the size of the rows or columns to

accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units. Therefore, in accordance with the present invention, the layout is adjusted automatically based on quantities inside the plurality of display units. This feature is not taught or suggested by Ertemalp or Mizuno. In Mizuno, adjustment of row spacing occurs based on a quantity outside the display units themselves (e.g., the number of jobs selected for that row) and not based on the scheduled quantity inside the plurality of display units.

In response to the applicant's prior arguments for patentability, the Examiner has provided a response to the prior patentability arguments advanced by the applicant on pages 4-6 of the Office Action. On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner takes the position that the applicant's argument is not persuasive because Figure 6 of Mizuno illustrates that by pushing one of the different buttons for a year, month or day (7b, 7c, 7d in Figure 6), the layout is adjusted according to the one of those mode buttons, which is pushed. It is submitted that the Examiner's very comments emphasize the differences between Mizuno and the present invention. That is, in Mizuno, the mode button controls the size of the rows and the layout while in the present invention it is the scheduled quantity inside a plurality of display units which dictates the size of the rows or columns.

On page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner takes the position that Ertemalp discloses a layout control device forming a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns, defining the layout, and that the layout is formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units. Applicants have reviewed the portions of Ertemalp identified by the Examiner (i.e., Figure 11 and columns 4 and 5). Figure 11 illustrates a situation in which task overlap occurs (see column 7, lines 6-12). Referring to column 4, line 51 to column 5, line 2 of Ertemalp, this portion of Ertemalp describes how a project management application (PMA) 44 obtains task information and task display information. However, applicant does not see where Ertemalp discloses the above-described features of the present claimed invention.

On page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner relies on additional portions of Mizuno (i.e., button 7a in Figure 6, Figure 4, column 3, lines 19-27 and 41-53; and column 6, lines 25-61). However, it is submitted that the features of the present claimed invention are not taught by these portions of Mizuno either. The reduced-scale button 7a provides for toggling between a normal mode and a reduced-scale mode. The other buttons (7b-7e) are used to select a mode such as year, month or day. While actuation of these mode buttons does adjust the size of rows and columns, such adjustment is not being done automatically based on a scheduled quantity

inside a plurality of display units. Therefore, it is submitted that the claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

In summary, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest:

"a layout control device forming a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and...

wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units."

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 3 and 4 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claim 5

Referring to claim 5, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed schedule display control method which comprises:

"controlling a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and

... wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units."

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 7 and 8

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 5 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7 and 8 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claim 9

Referring to claim 9, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed computer readable storage medium which performs the process of:

“controlling a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and...

wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units.”

Therefore it is submitted that claim 9 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 11 and 12

Claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 11 and 12 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claim 13

Referring to claim 13, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed schedule display control device which comprises:

“a layout device dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows, and automatically adjusting a length of the display units of

each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and a display device displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.”

Therefore it is submitted that claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 14

Referring to claim 14, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed schedule display control device which comprises:

“a layout device dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in columns, and automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; ”

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 14 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim 15

Referring to claim 15, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed schedule display device which comprises:

“...said layout device automatically adjusts a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;

said layout device automatically adjusts a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and...”

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 15 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 16-21

It is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the features of independent claims 16-21 which are identified below:

“automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;” (claim 16)

“automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;” (claim 17)

“automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit ;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;” (claim 18)

“automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and” (claim 19)

“automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;” (claim 20)

“automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;” (claim 21)

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 16-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Entry of the Amendment

The claim amendments which have been made in this case have been made to better relate the previously argued features of the present invention to the specific claim language. It is submitted that these features have already been brought to the Examiner’s attention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these claim amendments be entered in the subject application.

Summary

It is submitted that none of the reference, either taken alone or in combination, teach the present claimed invention. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-21 are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and early notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

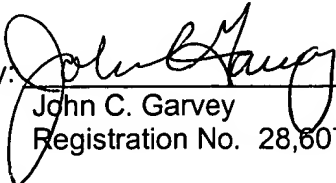
Serial No. 09/521,448

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display control device comprising:
a layout control device forming a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and
a display control device controlling display of the schedule table according to the layout, wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units.
3. (AS UNAMENDED) The schedule display control device according to Claim 1, wherein:
the schedule quantity is a space required for a schedule in a row or a column with a largest number of items and/or the schedule requiring a largest display area, and
the layout control device forms the layout such that each display unit with the largest number of items and/or the schedule requiring the largest display area is displayed.
4. (AS UNAMENDED) The schedule display control device according to Claim 1, wherein the display control device outputs data controlling the schedule table and the schedule display to a file of a format interpretable by another processing platform.
5. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display control method which controls the display of a schedule table, wherein said schedule display control method comprises:
controlling a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and
displaying the schedule table using the layout,
wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units.

7. (AS UNAMENDED) The schedule display control method according to Claim 5, further comprising:

computing the schedule quantity from a display content quantity of the schedule in each row or each column with the largest number of items and/or the schedule requiring a largest display area; and
displaying the schedule requiring the largest display area.

8. (AS UNAMENDED) The schedule display control method according to claim 5, further comprising outputting the schedule table and the schedule display to a file of a format interpretable by another processing platform.

9. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium performing the process of:

controlling a layout of a schedule table comprising rows and columns defining the layout, the layout formed based on a schedule quantity inside a plurality of display units; and
displaying the schedule table using the layout,

wherein the layout control device forms the layout by automatically adjusting a size of the rows or columns based on the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units to accommodate the schedule quantity inside the plurality of display units.

11. (AS UNAMENDED) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 further comprising:

computing the schedule quantity from a display content quantity of the schedule in each row or each column with the largest number of items and/or the schedule requiring a largest display area; and
displaying the schedule requiring the largest display area.

12. (AS UNAMENDED) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 further comprising outputting the schedule table and the schedule display to a file of a format interpretable by another platform.

13. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display control device comprising:
a layout device dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows, and automatically adjusting a length of the display

units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

a display device displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display control device comprising:

a layout device dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in columns, and automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

a display device displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

15. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display control device comprising:

a layout device dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows and columns;

said layout device automatically adjusts a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;

said layout device automatically adjusts a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

a display device displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display method comprising:

dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows;

automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

17. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display method comprising:

dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said

display units formed in columns;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column displaying a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

18. (TWICE AMENDED) A schedule display method comprising:
dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows and columns;

automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

19. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage media storing a schedule display process comprising:

dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows;

automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

20. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage media storing a schedule display process comprising:

dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in columns;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage media storing a schedule display process comprising:

dividing a calendar period into a plurality of display units displaying information, said display units formed in rows and columns;

automatically adjusting a length of the display units of each row to match the display unit in a respective row containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit;

automatically adjusting a width of the display units of each column to match the display unit in a respective column containing a largest size of information inside the display unit, based on the largest size of information inside the display unit; and

displaying the display units with their corresponding information inside.